

## News Release

For immediate release

Nov. 18, 2015

### HCA announces plan to provide whole-person care in SW Washington

*Molina, Community Health Plan of Washington will provide physical, behavioral health services to better serve Apple Health (Medicaid) clients*

OLYMPIA – People with mental and substance abuse disorders are more likely to have untreated and preventable chronic illnesses such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease. When we treat physical and behavioral health together—what is called “whole person” care—we get better results and healthier residents.

Following a competitive bid process, the Health Care Authority (HCA) has selected two health plans to offer fully integrated behavioral and physical health services for more than 120,000 Apple Health (Medicaid) clients in Southwest Washington. The health plans are Molina Healthcare of Washington and Community Health Plan of Washington.

Beginning in April 2016, Apple Health clients will access the full continuum of physical health, mental health and substance use disorder services through a single integrated health plan, instead of navigating multiple systems to receive care. Currently, Apple Health clients must navigate up to three different systems to access behavioral health, chemical dependency and physical health services. This new approach will offer an integrated network of providers, helping ensure better coordinated care and more seamless access to necessary services.

“This is a monumental first step for Washington State on the pathway to full integration statewide in 2020,” HCA State Medicaid Director MaryAnne Lindeblad said. “As we work to create a healthier Washington, integration of physical and behavioral health services for our Apple Health clients in Southwest Washington is a major milestone toward the goals of better health, better quality care and lower costs.”

[Senate Bill 6312](#), passed during the 2014 legislative session, directed HCA and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to establish common regional service areas for Apple Health behavioral and physical health care purchasing. The bill also created two “tracks” for regions to follow between 2016 and 2020 to achieve fully integrated physical and behavioral health services by 2020. Clark and Skamania counties, which together form the Southwest Regional Service Area, chose the “early adopter” track.

The other option offered to regions under SB 6312 is the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) track. In this option, BHOs are created to contract with DSHS to offer behavioral health services (mental health and chemical dependency). Physical health services continue to be offered through Apple Health.

[Read more about the early adopter and BHO tracks.](#)

HCA will finalize contracts with the two plans by Dec. 31, and the contracts will be effective April 1, 2016.

“Our community is glad the RFP process has been successfully completed, and we know which managed care organizations will be our partners in this effort,” Director of Clark County Human Services Vanessa Gaston said. “We appreciate HCA including the counties in this process.”

“Molina could not be more appreciative or honored to have been selected by HCA to lead the way with the SW Washington Region’s behavioral and physical health vision,” Molina Healthcare of Washington President Peter Adler said. “Serving whole communities with fully integrated care has been at the core of Molina’s mission for over 35 years and is highly aligned with the State’s Healthier Washington aspirations. We are eager to work with regional stakeholders including Clark and Skamania counties, the Southwest Washington Regional Health Alliance, our provider partners, community-based organizations, Community Health Plan of Washington, and HCA to successfully implement fully integrated care and a Healthier Washington.”

“Community Health Plan of Washington is pleased to be selected by HCA to provide fully integrated managed care in Clark and Skamania counties,” Community Health Plan of Washington Chief Executive Officer Lance Hunsinger said. “Community Health Plan of Washington is the only statewide, not-for-profit, Washington-based managed care organization providing coverage to low-income Washingtonians. Community Health Plan of Washington was founded by Community Health Centers in 1992 and has served Southwest Washington since 1999. We are recognized as an innovative leader in the creation of integrated medical and mental health care programs, such as the Mental Health Integration Program, tailored to meet the needs of individuals with complex conditions.”

Apple Health clients in Clark and Skamania counties will get information beginning in January 2016 about the new plan choices.

Ensuring health care focuses on the whole person is a component of Healthier Washington, Washington’s initiative to transform health care in the state so that people experience better health during their lives, get better care when they need it, and care is more affordable and accessible.

**For additional information and background:**

[Visit HCA’s integrated physical and behavioral health care site.](#)

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**About Washington State Health Care Authority**

HCA is the state’s top health care purchaser, covering more than 2 million Washington residents through Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program. We work with partners to help ensure Washingtonians have access to better health and better care at a lower cost. For more information, visit [www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov).

Please do not reply directly to this message. If you have feedback or questions, please visit the [HCA website](#) for contact information.

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